



St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol will release series of videos to inform public of how they operate

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BRISTOL – Through the assistance of funding from the Main Street Community Foundation and creative skills of Productions for Change, St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol will soon be releasing a series of videos online in order to better inform the public of how the organization operates and its mission.



Photo courtesy of Tom Mazzarella Outreach Specialist Marianne Farr visits a space occupied by individuals without housing.

According to Mission Executive Director Christine Theborge, 13 videos of varying lengths are being created consisting of interviews with St. Vincent staff, clients and leadership in order to give area residents a better insight into the homeless shelter and outreach's activities.

“We have three residents and then we have staff like our cook, our lead monitor and our outreach coordinator,” said Theborge of those featured in the videos. “We’ve also a 20-second Spanish (video) of what we do and another explaining what we’re doing now. It’s talking about the resource center and the different things we’re adding.”

Theborge said a grant was awarded to the nonprofit videography organization Productions for Change in order to create the series.

“We really wanted to (feature) a cross section of what we do. We always say the most important thing is relationships and grace, dignity and kindness, but relationships really makes everything go round,” continued the director.

Main Street Community Foundation Director of Grants Kate Kerchaert noted the grant of \$1,870 was funded through both the Formagioni-Lodovico Family Fund and Angela and Al Caruso Family Charitable Fund to fund the project.

“We made a grant to a nonprofit called Productions for Change and they create videos and documentaries,” said Kerchaert. “It was their idea to create a promotional video for St Vincent. De Paul. It’s about getting the word out about the outreach and to also help them raise funds.”

Kerchaert said the foundation has respect for Productions for Change’s mission and has often supported St. Vincent in the past as well and felt it was a worthy endeavor to invest in the project.

Tom Mazarella, director of the nonprofit Productions for Change and business MazzMedia, said he’s worked as a videographer and visual editor for 40 years. He created Productions for Change as a means of giving back to the community by utilizing grant backing, his skills and desire to make a difference in the region around him.

“I can do more than just one or two such projects a year that way,” he said. “I do projects for nonprofits and have done some stuff for Bristol Adult Resource Center, Prudence Crandall and the Men and Boys Fund here in Bristol.”

After the grant process was finalized in late summer, Mazarella joined St. Vincent staff in interviews and followed an outreach specialist to areas in Bristol commonly occupied by individuals living with unsheltering challenges.

“There are people who wake up and sleep every day here in tents and it’s gut wrenching,” said Mazarella. “How can this happen in our community? That blew me away. I’ve been living in Bristol my whole life and I didn’t realize the locations were the locations where people are living.”

Mazarella said he has the ability to tell stories and he hopes that those talents can better help others in the community where he lives and that’s why he focuses on helping nonprofits.

Thebarga said the video series will likely be uploaded to St. Vincent’s social media pages as well as its websites within a few weeks.